

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09676 101702Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DIWY-01 IO-13 /072 W  
-----101730Z 021734 /43

P R 101605Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5242  
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL GENOA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: FEMINISTS WILL DEMONSTRATE BUT POLITICAL PARTIES  
SEEK TO DOWN-PLAY IMPORT OF SENATE ABORTION DEFEAT

REF: ROME 9453

1. THE POLITICAL PARTIES CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN DELICATE  
NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PROGRAM AGREEMENT ARE DOWNPLAYING  
THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SENATE'S UNEXPECTED  
DEFEAT OF THE ABORTION BILL ON JUNE 7. THE CHRISTIAN  
DEMOCRATS (ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY DELIGHTED WITH THE  
PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST THE UPSET VOTE GAVE THE PARTY) HAVE  
PUBLICLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT SINCE THE ISSUE IS  
ONE OF CONSCIENCE AND NOT POLITICAL, THERE IS NOTHING  
TO GLOAT ABOUT. THE COMMUNISTS, EQUALLY CONCERNED  
THAT THE ABORTION VOTE NOT JEOPARDIZE PROSPECTS FOR A  
PROGRAM AGREEMENT, HAVE ADOPTED A SIMILARLY CAUTIOUS  
LINE. EVEN THE SOCIALISTS, WHOSE INITIAL REACTIONS  
WERE FOREBODING AND DARK, HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MINIMIZE  
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THE POLITICAL IMPORT OF THE VOTE.

2. THE DESIRE TO AVOID A DEVISIVE POLITICAL STRUGGLE  
OVER ABORTION WAS APPARENT IN THE SPEED WITH WHICH  
THE PSI AND LAY PARTIES (JOINED BY THE PCI AND  
DEMOCRAZIA PROLETARIA) INTRODUCED THE SENATE DRAFT OF  
THE ABORTION BILL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CHAMBER OF

DEPUTIES. ALTHOUGH THE SENATE CANNOT TAKE UP THE ISSUE AGAIN FOR SIX MONTHS, ITS INTRODUCTION IN THE CHAMBER WILL KEEP THE BILL ALIVE AND ASSURE EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ACTION ON ABORTION AS WELL AS FORESTALL A RADICAL PARTY EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ABORTION ISSUE IN A NATIONAL REFERENDUM IN THE SPRING.

3. TO ITALY'S MILITANT FEMINISTS, THE ABORTION SETBACK WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO LET THE EVENT GO BY UNMARKED. SOME 20,000 DEMONSTRATORS FROM ALL OVER ITALY ARE EXPECTED TO MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN ROME THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 10. THE RADICAL PARTY WILL ALSO SPONSOR TWO MASS MEETINGS IN ROME JUNE 11 AND 12 TO ENHANCE THEIR DEMAND FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON ABORTION.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WOMEN, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ABORTION, PARTY LINE, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ROME09676  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770207-1216  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 2617667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 77 ROME 9453  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2193777  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FEMINISTS WILL DEMONSTRATE BUT POLITICAL PARTIES SEEK TO DOWN-PLAY IMPORT OF SENATE ABORTION DEFEAT  
**TAGS:** PINT, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2617667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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